

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

ICAE-00 SAA-01 HA-05 TRSE-00 /031 W

-----089581 141743Z /47

O 141727Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2802

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 02339

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM TD

SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION

REF: STATE 204786

1. EMBOFF DELIVERED AIDE MEMOIRE ALONG LINES CONTAINED IN REFTEL TO MIN EXTAFF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF UN AFFAIRS (BLANCHFIELD). PROMISING TO GIVE AIDE MEMOIRE IMMEDIATELY TO PERMSEC BALLAH, BLANCHFIELD SAID T&T ALWAYS HAD OPPOSED ZIONISM-RACISM LINKUP. IN LARGE PART BECAUSE OF THIS, T&T WAS BEING REPRESENTED AT LOWEST PRACTICABLE LEVEL AT CONFERENCE (I.E., MEMBERS OF T&T MISSION IN GENEVA), AND HE WAS CERTAIN THAT THEY WOULD NOT RPT NOT SUPPORT ANY RESOLUTION OR OTHER ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE WHICH LINKED ZIONISM AND RACISM.

2. COMMENT. T&T ABSTAINED IN UNGA WHEN ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE CAME UP IN 1975 AND, IN OUR VIEW, IS LIKELY TO DO SO AGAIN AT GENEVA. THIS IS BECAUSE T&T, AS A MATTER OF POLICY, DOES NOT TAKE STRONG POSITIONS ON ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL FORA WHEN IT DOES NOT PERCEIVE THOSE ISSUES AS DIRECTLY AFFECTING ITS VITAL INTERESTS. MOREOVER, T&T HAS THE ADDITIONAL REASON TO BE CAUTIOUS IN THE PRESENT
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INSTANCE BECAUSE OF ITS LONGSTANDING INTEREST IN JOINING OPEC AND CONSEQUENT DESIRE NOT TO OFFEND THE ARABS NEEDLESSLY.

3. EMBASSY WISHES TO POINT OUT THAT REFTEL RECEIVED HERE MORNING OF AUGUST 14, WHICH LEFT US INSUFFICIENT TIME TO TAKE ACTIONS WITH GOTT WHICH COULD POSSIBLY INFLUENCE

TRINIDAD'S POSITION AT GENEVA. T&T MISSIONS ABROAD APPEAR TO OPERATE FOR THE MOST PART ON STANDING INSTRUCTIONS. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THOSE INSTRUCTIONS NORMALLY MUST BE APPROVED BY THE CABINET (I.E., PM WILLIAMS), WHICH MEETS EVERY THURSDAY. THUS TO HAVE ANY CHANCE WHATSOEVER OF INFLUENCING GOTT ON ISSUES SUCH AS THAT CONTAINED IN REFTTEL, WE NEED NOTICE AT LEAST SEVERAL WORKING DAYS IN ADVANCE.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED ON POSITIONS/ ACTIONS TAKEN BY T&T DELEGATION AT SUBJECT CONFERENCE. O'MAHONY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, AIDE MEMOIRE, ZIONISM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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